

Washington - Congressman Lee Terry returned to Washington, DC, late yesterday evening following his visit to Iraq and Kuwait with Senator Ben Nelson, Senator Jeff Sessions and Congressman Devin Nunes.

"My meetings with troops, including several from Nebraska, confirmed the high value of their mission to defeat the terrorists in that country," Terry said.

A day before Congressman Terry departed for Kuwait, the House of Representative voted on legislation to provide funding for the war but to withdraw troops from Iraq by August 2008. Congressman Terry voted against this legislation due to the inclusion of this surrender date. It was approved by the U.S. House on April 25, 2007 by a 218-208 vote. President Bush said he will veto the legislation. Congressman Terry expects to sustain the President's veto.

"Some politicians in Washington wrongly believe they should declare Iraq a lost cause and broadcast a false message that demoralizes our troops and emboldens the enemy," Terry said. "The briefings I received from military commanders and discussions I had with Iraqi leaders showed me otherwise - that the war is not lost, and the Iraqis are pleading that the United States not abandon them.

"The Congress must pass responsible legislation to

fund equipment and operations for troops," Terry said. "However, the United States expects meaningful and substantial progress on the part of the Iraqi Government. I am convinced from my visit to Iraq that the Iraqis need to take greater initiative and focus in making their country's future viable. U.S. troops are providing as much security and stability to the Iraqi people as possible,

but time is short and the Iraqi government must take greater responsibility. The elected leaders of Iraq must bring the various parties in Iraq toward making decisions on issues causing strife in their country, while increasing security so troops can return home as soon as possible."

